

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1-9, 11-34 and 36-38 are now in the application, with Claims 1, 7, 8, 12, 13 and 36-38 being independent. Claims 10 and 35 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 7, 8, 12, 13 and 36-38 have been amended herein.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claims 7, 8, 10 and 35 recite allowable subject matter. These claims were objected to for being dependent upon rejected base claims. Claims 1-6, 9, 11-34 and 36-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Without conceding the propriety of the rejections, and solely to expedite allowance of the application, Applicants have incorporated allowable subject matter into each of the independent claims. In particular, the features of Claim 10 have been incorporated into Claim 1, thus rendering Claim 1 allowable. In addition, Claims 7 and 8 have been rewritten in independent form, thus also being in condition for allowance. Claims 12, 13 and 36-38 have also been amended to include the features of Claim 10 (or Claim 35). In particular, each of these claims has been amended to recite that the viscosity of the transporting ink is greater than that of the recording ink. Although the Examiner indicated that this feature is allowable when including the features of Claim 1, this feature is also believed to render independent Claims 12, 13 and 36-38 allowable.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1, 7, 8, 12, 13 and 36-38. Dependent Claims 2-6, 9, 11 and 14-34 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining

features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is not believed to raise new issues, is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicants earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 33,628

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

MAW:tnt